

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, UK, SP
SUBJECT: TUC DELEGATION TO SPAIN AND PORTUGAL

1. A TUC DELEGATION WILL VISIT SPAIN SEPTEMBER 15-18
AND PORTUGAL SEPTEMBER 19. THE DELEGATION INCLUDES JACK
JONES, CHAIRMAN OF THE TUC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE AND
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TRANSPORT AND GENERAL WORKERS
UNION; LEN MURRAY, TUC GENERAL SECRETARY; JOE GORMLEY,
PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINERS; GEORGE SMITH,
GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE UNION OF CONSTRUCTION, ALLIED
TRADES AND TECHNICIANS; AND ALLAN HARGREAVES, HEAD OF THE
TUC INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

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2. THIS WILL MARK THE FIRST VISIT BY AN OFFICIAL TUC

DELEGATION TO SPAIN SINCE THE DAYS OF THE SPANISH REPUBLIC. IT IS DESCRIBED BY A TUC SPOKESMAN AS "EXPLORATORY" IN CHARACTER. ALTHOUGH THE SPANISH UGT INITIATED THE INVITATION TO THE TUC AND IS ARRANGING A SERIES OF MEETINGS FOR THE DELEGATION. THE BRITISH TRADE UNION LEADERS WILL ALSO BE VISITING OTHER TRADE UNION GROUPS IN SPAIN INCLUDING THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS. THIS IS IN LINE WITH THE TUC POLICY OF ENCOURAGING A UNIFIED TRADE UNION MOVEMENT, BOTH IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, EVEN IF IT MEANS INCLUSION OF THE COMMUNISTS. WHEN THE UGT HELD ITS FIRST CONGRESS SINCE THE DEATH OF FRANCO SOME MONTHS AGO, THE TUC LIMITED ITSELF TO A MESSAGE WHILE MOST OF THE OTHER EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CENTERS SENT REPRESENTATIVES. THE DELEGATION WILL VISIT PORTUGAL ONLY BRIEFLY BUT HERE THE PROBLEM IS SIMPLIFIED FOR THE TUC SINCE THERE IS A UNITARY MOVEMENT. THE INTERSINDICAL.

3. THE EMPHASIS BY THE TUC ON UNITY OF THESE TRADE UNION GROUPINGS, EVEN IF IT MEANS INCLUSION OF THE COMMUNISTS, IS IN SHARP CONTRAST TO THE AFL-CIO POSITION. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN GEORGE HARDY, THE AFL-CIO FRATERNAL DELEGATE, ADDRESSED THE TUC CONGRESS ON SEPTEMBER 9 HE REFERRED TO THE INTERSINDICAL AS HAVING BEEN "DOMINATED NOT BY SOCIALISTS. NOR BY WORKERS, BUT BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF PORTUGAL" AND EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH WHAT HE SAID WAS THE AIM OF THE NEW SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT "TO DISMANTLE THE INTERSINDICAL AND TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH FREE LABOR MOVEMENTS CAN EXIST -- NOT JUST UNIONS APPROVED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY."

ARMSTRONG

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